3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
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648 Esmeraldas, and especially of the drainage of the Rios Santiago and Cayapas, it is decidedly in the minority; indeed at present there is only one white family living on the course of the Cayapas.

The desirability of the intrusion of another race into a territory occupied by Indians is always doubtful. In this case it is especially so, for some of the negroes at all times take great liberties with their Indian neighbors, not to mention the fact that they openly plunder their crops and houses whenever opportunity offers. These depredations the Cayapa tolerate, rarely taking a hand themselves in the punishment of the offenders, and never committing acts of reprisal. They are a law-abiding people, and recognize completely the authority of the provincial government over all in-
[627] habitants except themselves. Any such acts, if they were to occur among themselves, would be severely punished in their own way and without governmental aid. Be it said to the credit of the provincial authorities, that they recognize the right of the Cayapa to govern themselves and to punish their own offenders, and further that they attempt to protect the Indians from impositions by others. However, it frequently happens that the guilty ones either escape or, if apprehended, are inadequately punished.

628 As above mentioned, all ordinary depredations, such
674 as theft by outsiders, are tolerated by the Cayapa without personally attempting to punish the offenders. There is one crime, however, which demands a severe penalty, namely, outrages against women. The standard of

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909) 1925
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ethics is very high among the Cayapa themselves, and any case of unfaithfulness, if such were to be discovered among themselves, would be most severely dealt with. About 1897 or 1898 two negroes came to a Cayapa house, drove the men away, and took possession of the premises with the women occupants. On the following day the chief sent down the river a commission which conveyed to the local teniente politico at La Tolita the heads of the negroes, carefully wrapped in leaves of the hoja blanca, as well as the compliments of the chief, and with an explanation as to the reason why the heads had been separated from the bodies. Incidentally the explanation conveyed the intelligence that future offenses of this kind would be punished in like manner. The teniente politico was requested to forward to the governor at Esmeraldas the two heads and the above message, but owing to the rapidity of decomposition in the tropics, it was deemed best to give the governor the benefit of the message only. Fortunately for all parties concerned the governor's reply, it is said, was a complete vindication of the action of the Cayapa. So far as could be learned, no similar crime has been committed since that time.

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DAILY LIFE

The social organization of the Cayapa has a strictly family basis, although according to their own traditions they formerly lived, when at Ibarra and Pueblo Viejo, in village communities. At present each family regularly lives entirely separated from every other family, and usually at a considerable distance from its nearest

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